

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE INSTRUCTION 10-805

September 5, 2002

Operations & Services

Aviation Weather Services, NWSPD 10-8

TRANSCRIBED WEATHER BROADCASTS

NOTICE: This publication is available at: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/directives/>.

OPR: OS23 (R. DuFrane)

Certified by: OS23 (M. Andrews)

Type of Issuance: Initial

SUMMARY OF REVISIONS: Supersedes Weather Service Operations Manual (WSOM) Chapter D-30, "Transcribed Weather Broadcasts," Issuance 97-4, dated July 8, 1997, and Operations Manual Letter 7-98, dated November 10, 1998.

 //SIGNED//

 9/05/02

Gregory A. Mandt

Date

Director, Office of Climate, Water, and Weather Services

Table of Contents

1. Purpose.....2

2. Background.....2

3. General.....2

4. Definitions.....3

5. Observational Requirements.....3

6. Records Retention.....4

7. Examples.....4

Appendices

A. NWS Weather Forecast Office Responsibility for Transcribed Weather Broadcasts.....A-1

B. Transcribed Weather Broadcast Preparation.....B-1

1. Purpose. This instruction specifies procedures for preparing NWS Transcribed Weather Broadcast (TWEB) text products (Route and Local Vicinity forecasts). TWEBs are primarily used by Automated Flight Service Station (AFSS) briefers to provide local, detailed information to General Aviation (GA) pilots.

2. Background. Because of the volume of General Aviation (GA) flights daily, it is not practical for GA to rely solely on person-to-person weather briefings. Weather information for initial flight planning, based on TWEBs, may be obtained by the pilot through continuous, recorded aviation weather information sources. These sources are an acceptable means of familiarizing pilots with general weather conditions.

3. General. The NWS Weather Forecast Office (WFO) responsible for preparing each TWEB is listed in Appendix A. The Meteorologist in Charge (MIC) for each NWS WFO with TWEB responsibility will ensure implementation and maintenance of the TWEB program. The MIC or their designee, (usually the Aviation Focal Point [AFP]) will regularly review TWEBs for quality and compliance with this instruction. Regional Meteorological Services Division (MSD) Chiefs or their designee (usually the Regional Aviation Meteorologist [RAM]) will also make periodic quality control checks of TWEBs. MICs, AFPs, MSD Chiefs, RAMs and forecasters are highly encouraged to listen to the TWEB broadcasts.

Since each Flight Service Station (FSS) may make their recordings in a different manner, each WFO should obtain the relevant recording information from their local FSS and post it on station for forecasters to occasionally monitor.

TWEBs should be as concise and current as possible to avoid confusing FAA Flight Service Specialists who use the TWEB in their briefings and recordings, and pilots who listen to the recordings.

MICs will forward requests for addition of new TWEBs or changes to existing TWEBs to the appropriate Regional Headquarters (RH) for action. RHs will transmit the request, along with recommendations, to the Office of Climate, Water, and Weather Services, NWS Headquarters

(NWSH). If approved by NWSH, RH will submit a Data Review Group (DRG) request and ensure administrative requirements are met. The DRG Change Management (DRGCM) will initiate action to include the new TWEB(s) in the FAA's Weather Message Switching Center Replacement (WMSCR) data base.

4. Definitions.

- a. TWEB. NWS-prepared text product for the continental U.S., including synopsis and forecast for more than 200 routes and local vicinities.
- b. Anchor Points. Intermediate and end points used to define the TWEB route. For example, MKETWB211 would have anchor points of KMKE, KMSN, KLSE, and KMSP. KMKE and KMSP are end points, while KMSN and KLSE are intermediate points along the route.
- c. TWEB Route. A 50 nautical mile (nm) wide corridor (25 nm either side) along a line connecting the anchor points of the route, and a 25 nm radius semi-circle around the end points. Exceptions to the 50 nm wide corridor occur where larger, irregularly shaped areas are covered.
- d. TWEB Route Forecast. Forecasts describing specific information on sustained surface winds (25 knots or greater), visibility, weather and obscuration to vision, sky conditions (coverage, ceiling/cloud heights, and cloud tops), mountain obscurement, and nonconvective low-level wind shear along a route during a 12-hour period. If visibility of 6 statute miles (SM) or less is forecast, obstructions to vision and/or weather will be included. Thunderstorms and volcanic ash will always be included regardless of visibility. An amended TWEB Route Forecast may be valid for less than a 12-hour period (see Appendix B, Section 4.2).
- e. TWEB Local Vicinity Forecast. An aviation weather forecast valid for a 12-hour period and covering an area with a radius of 50 nm, which may contain several airports. An amended TWEB Local Vicinity Forecast may be valid for less than a 12-hour period (see Appendix B, Section 4.2).
- F. TWEB Synopsis: A brief description of weather systems, such as fronts, high/low pressure centers, and upper air disturbances which will affect the route during the forecast period.

5. Observational Requirements. Most TWEB routes have anchor points corresponding to surface observation and (usually) Terminal Aerodrome Forecast (TAF) locations. Data from these points may be unavailable for periods of time or for certain hours each day. The impact of the loss of this data varies from one part of the country to another due to topography, land and water distribution, daily weather, and the proximity of other observations to the route corridor. Consequently, there may be times or days during which very few observations are needed for preparing certain route forecasts and other times during which the loss of one element of an observation may be critical.

6. Record Retention. Locally-issued TWEBs will be retained in accordance with NWS Instruction 10-2003.

7. Examples. The following examples illustrate the procedures in this instruction. The plain language translations highlight the phrasing expected in the text message.

019 TWEB 242008 KNYC-KBID-KACK. ALL HGTS MSL XCP CIGS. 3-4SM BR OVC025. 01Z 1-1 1/2SM BR -SHRA CIGS OVC010-015.

Forecast for TWEB route 019 valid until 08Z. Route 019 from New York City to Block Island to Nantucket. All heights above ground level except tops. Forecast until 01Z, visibility between 3 and 4 Statute miles in mist, 25 hundred overcast. After 01Z, visibility 1 to 1 ½ Statute miles in mist and light rain showers, ceilings between one thousand and 15 hundred overcast.

380 TWEB 120820 KSLC-KOGD-KRKS. ALL HGTS MSL XCP CIGS. P6SM FEW130-150. KOGD-KRRS 18Z P6SM FEW130-150 ISOLD SFC WND G45KT BLO 3SM TSRA CIGS OVC040CB.

Forecast for TWEB route 380 valid until 20Z. Route 380 from Salt Lake City to Ogden to Rock Springs. All heights above mean sea level except ceilings. Visibility greater than 6 Statute miles. Few clouds between 13 and 15 thousand. From Ogden to Rock Springs after 18Z, visibility greater than 6 Statute miles, few clouds between 13 and 15 thousand, isolated surface winds gusting to 45 knots with visibility below 3 Statute miles in thunderstorms and rain, ceilings 4 thousand overcast.

185 TWEB 121402 KAMA-KLBB-KMAF. ALL HGTS AGL XCP TOPS. P6SM SKC. KLBB-KMAF 23Z P6SM SKC LLWS.

Forecast for TWEB route 185 valid until 02Z. Route 185 from Amarillo to Lubbock to Midland. All heights above ground level except tops. Visibility greater than 6 Statute miles. Sky clear. Between Lubbock and Midland after 23Z, visibility greater than 6 Statute miles. Sky clear. Nonconvective LLWS.

061 TWEB 130820 KCLE LCL VCNTY. ALL HGTS AGL XCP TOPS. 3-4SM FZRA CIGS OVC010-015...12Z SFC WND 34025G35KT 0-1/2SM +SHSN CIGS OVC002-005.

Forecast for TWEB route 061 valid until 20Z. Route 061 for the Cleveland vicinity. All heights above ground level except tops. Until 12Z, visibility between 3 and 4 Statute miles in moderate freezing rain. Ceilings between one thousand and 15 hundred overcast. After 12Z, surface winds 340 degrees at 25 knots gusting to 35 knots. Visibility between 0 and ½ Statute miles in heavy snow showers. Ceilings between 2 and 5 hundred overcast.

232 TWEB 010820 KSTL-KCGI-KMEM. ALL HGTS AGL XCP TOPS. 3SM HZ SCT005-009 TOPS 015...17Z 3-4SM HZ SCT015 TOPS 025.

Forecast for TWEB route 232 valid until 20Z. Route 232 from St. Louis to Cape Girardeau to Memphis. All heights above ground level except tops. Until 17Z, visibility 3 Statute miles in haze. Between 5 and 9 hundred scattered, tops 15 hundred. After 17Z, between 3 and 4 Statute miles in haze. 15 hundred scattered, tops 25 hundred.

361 TWEB 131402 KSEA-KSMP-KELN. ALL HGTS MSL XCP CIGS. KSEA-KSMP P6SM SCT-BKN030 BKN070 TOPS 080 LCLLY BLO 3SM BR CIGS BKN001... 17Z-18Z IPVG P6SM SCT030 SCT050...23Z P6SM SKC. KSMP-KELN SFC WND 28025G35KT P6SM BKN070 KSMP TOPS 080...19Z P6SM SKC.

Forecast for TWEB route 361 valid until 02Z. Route 361 from Seattle to Stampede Pass to Ellensburg. All heights mean sea level except ceilings. From Seattle to Stampede Pass visibility greater than 6 Statute miles, scattered to broken 3 thousand, 7 thousand broken, tops 8 thousand. Locally below 3 Statute miles in fog, ceiling 1 hundred broken. Between 17 and 18Z, improving to greater than 6 Statute miles, 3 thousand scattered, 5 thousand scattered. At 23Z, visibility greater than 6 Statute miles, sky clear. From Stampede Pass to Ellensburg, surface wind from 280 at 25 knots gusting to 35 knots, visibility greater than 6 Statute miles, 7 thousand broken, tops 8 thousand at Stampede Pass. At 19Z, visibility greater than 6 Statute miles, sky clear.

BIS SYNS 250820. LO PRES TROF WL MV ACRS ND THIS MRNG. HI PRES WL MV SEWD FM CANADA INTO NWRN ND BY THIS AFTN.

Synopsis for area covered by TWEBs issued by WFO Bismark valid until 20Z. Low pressure trough will move across North Dakota this morning. High pressure will move southeastward from Canada into northwestern North Dakota by this afternoon.

Additional Examples Covering Various Weather Phenomena:

TWEB with IFR, FOG, SEVERE TS WIND GUSTS WITH TS, LLWS, AND ROUTE BROKEN INTO SECTIONS:

063 TWEB 131402 KCLE-KDTW. ALL HGTS AGL XCP TOPS. KCLE-KTOL P6SM BKN070 LCLLY BLO 3SM BR CIGS BLO BKN010...17Z SFC WND 22025G35KT P6SM CIGS BKN030 OVC050 SCT SFC WND G50KT 1SM TSRAGR CIGS OVC010CB...23Z P6SM CLR BLO 120 LLWS. KTOL-KDTW P6SM SKC.

MIST EXAMPLE:

061 TWEB 160214 KCLE LCL VCNTY. ALL HGTS AGL XCP TOPS. P6SM CLR BLO 120...09Z 4SM BR CLR BLO 120 LCLLY 2SM BR.

WINTER WEATHER SCENARIO:

063 TWEB 120820 KCLE-KDTW. ALL HGTS AGL XCP TOPS. 4SM -RA CIGS OVC030 AREAS 1-1 1/2SM -RASN CIGS OVC010...15Z SFC WND 30025G35KT 3SM -FZRA OVC010 SCTD BLO 3SM TSSN -FZRA CIGS BLO OVC010.

SNOW SCENARIO:

**063 TWEB 220820 KCLE-KDTW. ALL HGTS AGL XCP TOPS. 3-4SM -SN BR CIGS
OVC020 AREAS ISM -SN BLSN CIGS OVC010...16Z 5SM BR CIGS BKN-OVC030
LCLLY 2SM -SN CIGS BKN-OVC010.**

LAKE EFFECT SNOW AND DENSE FOG SCENARIO:

**061 TWEB 122008 KCLE LCL VCNTY. ALL HGTS AGL XCP TOPS. P6SM BKN040
SCT BLO 3SM SHSN CIGS BLO BKN010...02Z-03Z P6SM SKC...06Z 4SM BR SKC
LCLLY 1/2SM FG.**

Appendix A - NWS WFO Responsibility for TWEBs

Aberdeen, WFO ABR

TWB256 FSD-HON-BIS
TWB257 FSD-FAR

Albany, WFO ALY

TWB014 BTV-ALB-NYC
TWB015 ALB-SYR
TWB016 ALB-BGM-ELM

Albuquerque, WFO ABX

TWB193 ABQ-GUP
TWB197 ABQ-FMN
TWB198 ABQ-LVS-TAD

Amarillo, WFO AMA

TWB164 ICT-AMA
TWB184 GCK-AMA
TWB186 AMA-TAD
TWB192 ABQ-AMA

Atlanta, WFO FFC

TWB103 ATL-MCN-JAX

Baltimore/Washington, DC, WFO LWX

TWB032 DCA/BWI LCL VCNTY
TWB035 DCA-CRW

Billings, WFO BYZ

TWB289 CPR-SHR-BIL
TWB328 BIL-LVM-BZN-BTM
TWB329 MLS-BIL-LWT-GTF

Birmingham, WFO BMX

TWB109 CSG LCL VCNTY

Bismarck, WFO BIS

TWB249 ISN-MOT-GFK
TWB252 BIS-MLS
TWB253 BIS-ISN
TWB254 BIS-MOT
TWBSYN SYNOPSIS

Boise, WFO BOI

TWB346 BOI-EKO

TWB348 BOI-SMN
TWB365 PDT-BKE-BOI
TWB369 RDM-BNO-BOI
TWBBOI.SY SYNOPSIS

Boston, WFO BOX

TWB005 BOS LCL VCNTY
TWB008 BOS-ALB
TWB010 BOS-HYA-ACK

Buffalo, WFO BUF

TWB058 BUF-ERI-CLE
TWB071 PIT-BFD-BUF

Burlington, WFO BTV

TWB007 BOS-LEB-BTV
TWB013 BTV-MSS-ART-SYR

Caribou, WFO CAR

TWB001 PWM-BGR-CAR
TWB003 BTV-BGR

Central Illinois, WFO ILX

TWB215 CHI-SPI-STL

Central Pennsylvania, WFO CTP

TWB026 HAR LCL VCNTY
TWB029 HAR-IPT-ELM

Cheyenne, WFO CYS

TWB286 CPR-DGW-BFF
TWB287 CPR-DGW-CYS
TWB292 RKS-RWL-LAR-CYS
TWBSYN SYNOPSIS

Cleveland, WFO CLE

TWB061 CLE LCL VCNTY
TWB063 CLE-DTW
TWBSYN SYNOPSIS

Denver/Boulder, WFO DEN

TWB279 DEN-LAR
TWB280 DEN-CYS
TWB306 DEN LCL VCNTY EXCP MTNS
TWBSYN SYNOPSIS

Des Moines, WFO DMX

TWB239 MKC-DSM-MCW
TWB240 OMA-DSM-MLI
TWB297 IRK-DSM-FSD
TWB304 DSM LCL VCNTY
TWBSYN SYNOPSIS

Dodge City, WFO DDC

TWB270 ICT-GCK

Duluth, WFO DLH

TWB246 DLH LCL VCNTY
TWB248 DLH-INL-GFK

Eastern North Dakota, WFO FGZ

TWB245 MSP-AXN-FAR
TWB247 DLH-FAR
TWB250 FAR-GFK-CYWG
TWB251 BIS-FAR

Elko, WFO LKN

TWB383 SLC-ENV-EKO
TWB404 RNO-LOL-EKO
TWB406 LAS-ELY-EKO

El Paso, WFO EPZ

TWB195 ABQ-TCS-ELP
TWB196 ELP-TUS

Eureka, WFO EKA

TWB375 AVC-MFR
TWB416 RDD-ACV
TWB420 OAK-ACV

Flagstaff, WFO FGZ

TWB389 PHX-INW-FMN
TWB390 PRC-GCN-BCE
TWB391 PRC-FLG-INW-GUP
TWB398 LAS-GCN-FMN
TWB399 PHX-FLG

Gaylord, WFO APX

TWB204 PLN-TVC-MBS
TWB307 MBS-PLN

Glasgow, WFO GGW

TWB330 GTF-HVR-GGW-ISN

Goodland, WFO GLD

TWB263 LBF-GLD
TWB273 GCK-GLD
TWB275 DEN-GLD
TWB314 SLN-GLD

Grand Junction, WFO GJT

TWB278 DEN-EGE-GJT
TWB281 GJT-RKS
TWB283 GJT-FMN

Grand Rapids, WFO GRR

TWB205 TVC-MKG-SBN

Great Falls, WFO TFX

TWB331 GTF-HLN-BTM-DLN-IDA
TWB332 GTF-MSO
TWB333 GTF-CTB-FCA
TWBTFX.SY SYNOPSIS

Green Bay, WFO GRB

TWB212 MKE-AUW-DLH

Hanford, WFO HNX

TWB421 SJC-BFL
TWB423 SCK-FAT-BFL

Hastings, WFO GI

TWB261 OMA-GRI-LBF

Indianapolis, WFO IND

TWB226 IND-CHI
TWB308 IND-SBN
TWB309 IND LCL VCNTY
TWBSYN SYNOPSIS

Jacksonville, WFO JAX

TWB083 VLD-GNV-OCF-ORL
TWB106 JAX-SAV

Key West, WFO EYW

TWB115 MIA-EYW

La Crosse, WFO ARX

TWB211 MKE-MSN-LSE-MSP
TWB218 CHI-RFD-DBQ-RST
TWB242 MSP-RST-MCW

Las Vegas, WFO VEF

TWB397 LAS-EED
TWB405 RNO-TPH-LAS
TWB427 PMD-IYK-BIH
TWB428 VCV-DAG-LAS

Little Rock, WFO LZK

TWB154 LIT-SGF

Los Angeles, WFO LOX

TWB426 TSP MTNS-SOLEDAD-CAJON-BNG PASSES AND ADJ MTNS
TWB430 SMO-OXR-SBA
TWB431 LAX BASIN
TWBLOX.SY SYNOPSIS

Lubbock, WFO LUB

TWB185 AMA-LBB-MAF

Marquette, WFO MQT

TWB210 CMX-DLH

Medford, WFO MFR

TWB370 MFR-LMT-LKV
TWB374 AST-OTH-ACV
TWB411 RDD-MFR
TWB412 RDD-LMT

Melbourne, WFO MLB

TWB081 PBI-VRB-ORL
TWB084 JAX-DAB-MLB
TWB118 TPA-ORL-DAB

Miami, WFO MFL

TWB082 MLB-PBI-MIA
TWB114 MIA-MYGF-MYNN

Midland, WFO MAF

TWB187 MAF-ELP
TWB194 ABQ-ROW-MAF

Milwaukee, WFO MKX

TWB219 CHI-MKE
TWBSYN SYNOPSIS

Minneapolis, WFO MPX

TWB214 AUW-EAU-MSP
TWB296 MSP LCL VCNTY
TWBSYN SYNOPSIS

Missoula, WFO MSO

TWB336 FCA-MSO-SMN
TWB338 BTM-3DU-MSO-S06-GEG

Newport/Morehead City (NC), WFO MHX

TWB041 ILM-EWN-ORF

New York City, WFO OKX

TWB009 BOS-BDL-NYC
TWB019 NYC-BID-ACK

North Platte, WFO LBF

TWB098 OFK-VTN-CDR
TWB264 LBF-BFF
TWB274 DEN-AKO-LBF

Omaha, WFO OAX

TWB099 OMA-OFK
TWB269 MKC-OMA
TWBSYN SYNOPSIS

Paducah, WFO PAH

TWB232 STL-CGI-MEM
TWB236 SGF-CGI

Pendleton, WFO PDT

TWB355 YKM-PDT
TWB366 PDT-RDM
TWB368 DLS-RDM-LKV

Philadelphia, WFO PHI

TWB025 PHL LCL VCNTY
TWB033 ORF-SBY-PHL

Phoenix, WFO PSR

TWB396 PHX-PRC-LAS
TWB425 SW AZ DESERTS PHX-EED SWD
TWB429 SRN CA DESERT PSP-EED SWD
TWBPSR.SY SYNOPSIS

Pittsburgh, WFO PBZ

TWB072 CLE-PIT-HAR
TWB073 PIT-DCA

Pleasant Hill, WFO EAX

TWB238 MKC-IRK-BRL
TWB294 TUL-CNU-MKC
TWB295 MKC LCL VCNTY

Pocatello, WFO PIH

TWB340 IDA-SMN
TWB343 IDA-JAC
TWB344 PIH-RKS
TWB345 BOI-BYI-PIH-IDA

Portland (ME), WFO GYX

TWB002 PWM-BTV
TWB006 BOS-PWM

Portland (OR), WFO PQR

TWB367 PDT-DLS-PDT
TWB371 RDM-PDX
TWB372 PDX-EUG-MFR
TWB373 PDX-AST
TWBPQR.SY SYNOPSIS

Pueblo, WFO PUB

TWB276 DEN-LHX-GCK
TWB277 DEN-PUB-TAD
TWB282 GJT-PUB
TWB284 GCK-TAD

Quad Cities, WFO DVN

TWB216 CHI-BRL
TWB217 CHI-MLI
TWB303 MLI LCL VCNTY
TWB305 CID LCL VCNTY

Rapid City, WFO UNR

TWB258	RAP-BFF
TWB259	RAP-GCC-SHR
TWB260	RAP-BIS
TWB285	CPR-RAP
TWB315	RAP-PIR

Reno, WFO REV

TWB376	LKV-RNO
TWB402	RNO-BIH
TWB403	RNO-BOI
TWBREV.SY	SYNOPSIS

Riverton, WFO RIW

TWB288	CPR-RIW-JAC
TWB290	RKS-JAC
TWB291	RKS-RIW-BIL
TWB311	CPR-RKS

Sacramento, WFO STO

TWB413	RDD-RNO
TWB415	RDD-CCR
TWB418	CCR-SAC-RNO
TWB419	CCR-TPH
TWB424	RDD-SAC-SCK

St. Louis, WFO LSX

TWB234	STL-COU-MKC
TWBSYN	SYNOPSIS

Salt Lake City, WFO SLC

TWB312	SLC-VEL
TWB313	RKS-VEL-PUC-PGA
TWB380	SLC-OGD-RKS
TWB381	SLC-PVU-GJT
TWB382	SLC-MLF-CDC-LAS
TWB384	SLC-BYI
TWB385	SLC-MLD-PIH
TWB386	LAS-BCE-GJT
TWBSLC.SY	SYNOPSIS

San Diego, WFO SGX

TWB432	SNA-SAN AND ADJ MTNS
--------	----------------------

San Francisco Bay Area, WFO MTR

TWB417	SFO-OAK LCL VCNTY
--------	-------------------

TWB422 SJC-SBA
TWBMTR.SY SYNOPSIS

San Joaquin Valley, WFO HNX

TWB421 SJC-BFL
TWB423 SCK-FAT-BFL

Seattle/Tacoma, WFO SEW

TWB357 SEA-PAE-BIL
TWB358 PGTSND WITHIN 25NM RADIUS OF SEA
TWB359 SEA-OLM-PDX
TWB360 OLM-HQM-AST
TWB361 SEA-SMP-ELN
TWBSEW.SY SYNOPSIS

Sioux Falls, WFO FSD

TWB243 MSP-RWF-FSD
TWB302 SUX LCL VCNTY
TWB316 FSD-PIR
TWBSYN SYNOPSIS

Spokane, WFO OTX

TWB347 BOI-LWS-GEG
TWB353 GEG-PDT
TWB354 GEG-ELN

Springfield (MO), WFO SGF

TWB233 STL-SGF
TWB237 SGF-MKC
TWB310 SGF LCL VCNTY

Tallahassee, WFO TAE

TWB112 JAX-TLH
TWB117 TPA-CTY-TLH

Tampa, WFO TBW

TWB116 MIA-FMY-TPA

Topeka, WFO TOP

TWB267 MKC-ICT
TWB317 MKC-SLN

Tucson, WFO TWC

TWB393 PHX-TUS-DUG
TWB400 TUS-GBN

Tulsa, WFO TSA

TWB158 OKC-TUL-SGF
TWB163 TUL-MLC-DFW

Wichita, WFO ICT

TWB271 ICT-RSL-LBF

Wilmington (OH), WFO ILN

TWB064 CLE-CMH-CVG

Appendix B - TWEB Preparation

Table of Contents

1. TWEB Preparation..... B-1

 1.1 Guidance and Coordination..... B-1

 1.2 Time References..... B-1

 1.3 Contractions..... B-2

 1.4 Communications and Format..... B-2

2. Product Content..... B-2

 2.1 TWEB Route and Local Vicinity Forecasts..... B-4

 2.1.1 Surface Wind..... B-4

 2.1.2 Surface Visibility..... B-4

 2.1.3 Weather and Obstructions to Vision..... B-4

 2.1.4 Sky Condition..... B-4

 2.1.5 Cloud Tops..... B-6

 2.1.6 Low-Level Wind Shear (LLWS)..... B-6

 2.1.7 Information Not Contained in TWEBs..... B-6

 2.2 Synopsis..... B-6

 2.2.1 Synopsis Issuance..... B-7

3. Route Forecast Abbreviation or Suspension..... B-7

 3.1 Procedures..... B-7

4. Issuance Times and Valid Periods..... B-8

 4.1 Scheduled Text Products..... B-8

 4.2 Unscheduled Text Products..... B-8

5. Amendments..... B-8

1. TWEB Preparation. TWEBs are used primarily in recorded verbal communication. Therefore, forecasters must continually be aware of the difficulty listeners might have in visualizing the weather information described in a TWEB. TWEBs should be written clearly and concisely in an easy-to-understand style, and should be a maximum of six lines.

TWEBs should contain precise words, unambiguous phrases (those with clear and singular meanings), active verbs, and short sentences. Use of the word TO in front of a number should be avoided. A dash (-) will be voiced or spoken as BETWEEN (value) AND (value) (units) when used between numbers. For example, 1-1 1/2SM BR would be voiced as BETWEEN 1 AND 1 AND 1 HALF STATUTE MILES IN MIST.

1.1 Guidance and Coordination. TWEBs are prepared using a variety of guidance including Terminal Aerodrome Forecasts, satellite, and radar data, as well as data provided the National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP). Forecast products prepared by the Aviation Weather Center (AWC), Storm Prediction Center (SPC), Center Weather Service Units (CWSU), Tropical Prediction Center (TPC), and especially the local and adjacent WFOs will be reviewed by the forecaster to ensure the TWEB contributes to a coordinated aviation forecast

package. However, accuracy is the primary goal. Therefore, forecaster experience, expertise, analysis, and judgement must be applied to produce the best possible forecasts.

1.2 Time References. All time references will be stated in UTC. The Z abbreviation for UTC will be used in aviation products. When referencing midnight UTC, 0000Z will be used; 2400Z will be used only when a forecast period ends at midnight UTC. Time reference qualifiers BY, BETWEEN (BTWN), AFTER (AFT), THROUGH (THRU), and UNTIL (TIL) may be used, but because they are non-decisive, their use is not encouraged. Further, ambiguous time references such as SUNSET, BY END OF PD, or MORNING will not be used in route and vicinity forecasts.

1.3 Contractions. Only contractions from the FAA Contractions Handbook 7340.1 and the weather/obstruction to vision terms authorized in FMH No. 1 will be used in TWEBs. When more than one contraction is listed in 7340.1, the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) contraction will be used. If there is no ICAO contraction, the NWS contraction will be used. Contractions for weather and obstructions to vision not authorized for NWS METARs and TAFs will not be used in TWEBs (i.e., CAVOK, and CAVU).

Authorized contractions which are ambiguous or subject to misinterpretation will not be used. For example, NE could mean northeast or Nebraska. The direction contraction used in this case should be NEWD or NERN. The terms Otherwise (OTRW), Rest of Route (REST OF RTE), elsewhere (ELSW), and Remainder of Route (RMNDR of RTE) are ambiguous references to time and/or space and will not be used. Route segments will be clearly defined using references to anchor-points or other identifiers along the route (i.e., KPLN-KTVC, KCHI-50W KCHI, etc).

The accurate translation of TWEBs by automated dissemination systems, particularly computer generated voice systems, is dependent upon correctly spelled terms and contractions.

1.4 Communications and Format. Communications procedures for NWS headings are maintained in NWS Advanced Weather Interactive Processing System (AWIPS) procedures documentation. All TWEBs will be disseminated longline.

Each TWEB will be started on the line immediately following the previous product with the location identifier at the left margin. The second and subsequent lines of each TWEB will be indented four spaces to enhance visual scanning of the route number.

2. Product Content. The content of TWEBs will be arranged in a logical sequence of information both spatially and temporally. This sequence will be LOCATION, TIME, and CONDITION, and each group will end with a period (.). If the weather is expected to change with time along the route or route segments, then three periods (...) are used to separate time periods; i.e., LOCATION, TIME, CONDITION...TIME, CONDITION, etc. (see example below). Additionally, location identifiers within the 50 nm wide route corridor not listed in the TWEB header may be used in the text to delimit conditions and/or phenomena. All required conditions will be repeated in each time segment because the TWEB is a readable product. This ensures the reader, usually FSS, does not have to search for the original condition mentioned previously in the TWEB.

Example:

033 TWEB 080214 KORF-KSBY-KPHL. ALL HGTS AGL XCP TOPS. KORF-KSBY P6SM SKC...10Z 3-4SM HZ SCT040 TOPS 050-070. KSBY-KPHL 1 1/2-2SM BR CIGS OVC004-008...11Z 3-4SM HZ BKN012 TOPS 040-050.

If one or more conditions apply to the entire route, while other conditions along the route vary, then the route-wide conditions may be stated first followed by the segments and their associated conditions (see example below).

Example:

013 TWEB 102008 KBTV-KMSS-KART-KSYR. ALL HGTS AGL XCP TOPS. SFC WND 34030KT. KBTV-KART 3SM -SHSN BKN040 TOPS 060-080. KART-KSYR 0-1/2SM +SHSN CIGS OVC005-010.

The authorized conditional terms for describing clouds, visibility, and/or weather will be limited to those defined below. Only one conditional term will be used to describe any particular condition (see examples below).

- a. ISOLD (isolated) - single cells or localized conditions (no percentage). Implies circumnavigability.
- b. WDLY SCT (widely scattered) - less than 25 percent of area/route affected. Use with convective activity.
- c. LCL (local or locally) - less than 25 percent of area/route affected. Use to forecast non-convective weather and restrictions to visibility.
- d. SCT (scattered) - 25 to 54 percent of area/route affected. Use with convective activity.
- e. AREA(S) - 25 to 54 percent of area/route affected. Use to forecast non-convective weather and restrictions to visibility.
- f. NMRS (numerous) - greater than 54 percent of area/route affected. Use with convective activity.
- g. WDSPRD (widespread) - greater than 54 percent of area/route affected. Use to forecast non-convective weather and restrictions to visibility.

Examples:

278 TWEB 100214 KDEN-KEGE-KGJT. ALL HGTS MSL XCP CIGS. KDEN-40W KEGE MTNS OBSCD 3-4SM -SN BR CIGS OVC020-030 AREAS 1/2SM SN CIGS OVC002-006. 40W KEGE-KGJT P6SM SCT-BKN100-120 AREAS MTNS OBSCD

BKN080-100 WDLY SCT 4-5SM -SHSN BR CIGS OVC020-030.

232 TWEB 030214 KSTL-KCGI-KMEM. ALL HGTS AGL XCP TOPS. KSTL-KCGI P6SM OVC040...06Z AREAS BLO 3SM BR OVC010 TOPS 090-120...10Z LCL 1SM BR OVC010 -TSRA CIGS BKN-OVC020CB. KCGI- KMEM P6SM SCT-BKN010-015 ...08Z WDSRPD 1-1 1/2SM BR CIGS OVC005-009.

2.1 TWEB Route and Local Vicinity Forecasts. Route and Local Vicinity forecasts will include specific information listed in sections 2.1.1 to 2.1.6. Cloud tops should also be included, following sky condition, when expected to be below 15,000 feet MSL and the associated cloud amount is FEW, SCT, or BKN. Forecast elements will be in the order listed above. However, forecasters may deviate from that order to highlight the most significant weather elements by presenting those elements first.

2.1.1 Surface Wind. Mean sustained surface wind will be included whenever it is forecast to be ≥ 25 knots (e.g., SFC WND 32025G35KT). Wind gusts associated with thunderstorms may also be included (e.g., SFC WND G40KT).

2.1.2 Surface Visibility. Surface visibility will always be included in TWEBs using the following values. NOTE: Care should be taken to avoid crossing categories in the TWEB, i.e., IFR-MVFR, or IFR-VFR, etc.

Visibility (SM)	Forecast Values (SM)	Value/Increment
<3	0, 1/2, 1, 1 1/2, 2, 2 1/2, or <3	1/2-mile increments or <3
3 - 6	3, 4, 5, or 6	1-mile increments
>6	P6SM	Not applicable

2.1.3 Weather and Obstructions to Vision. Whenever thunderstorms or volcanic ash are expected, they will be included in the TWEBs regardless of the forecast visibility (this includes adding CB after the cloud height). If visibility of ≤ 6 SM is forecast, obstructions to vision and/or weather will be included immediately following the visibility. Use abbreviations contained in FMH No. 1 for weather/obstructions.

2.1.4 Sky Condition. Forecasters will determine the appropriate reference plane to use in describing cloud bases and will precede the product text with one of the following statements: ALL HGTS MSL XCP CIGS or ALL HGTS AGL XCP TOPS. The reference plane for cloud heights will always be stated as MSL or AGL (CIGS or BASES). Use of AGL, CIGS, and BASES should be limited to describing cloud layers with bases within 4,000 feet of the ground. Care should be taken when using ALL HGTS AGL XCP TOPS in mountainous areas to ensure that the heights given are representative of actual cloud heights above the ground along the route corridor.

The height of the lowest cloud layer base where the cumulative forecast of clouds obscures more than one-half of the sky constitutes a ceiling. Ceilings may be identified at the beginning of the sky condition group by the contraction CIGS (e.g., CIGS OVC005-008). Cloud cover and ceiling determination will be stated without regard to opaqueness. When cloud cover does not constitute a ceiling, the term BASES may precede the sky condition group (e.g., BASES FEW005). The bases of sky-covering or obscuring phenomena aloft (smoke, dust, etc.) may also be included in forecasts (e.g., FU BASES SCT005 TOPS 015).

NOTE: Care should be taken to avoid crossing ceiling categories, i.e., VFR-MVFR, or VFR-IFR, etc.

The height of cloud bases or tops along the forecast route may be expressed as a range of values or as a single value if heights are expected to be uniform (e.g., BKN020 TOPS 045, BKN003-005, or BKN010 TOPS 020-025). Cloud bases and tops heights will be forecast in hundreds of feet using the following value or range increments:

Cloud Bases and Tops

Cloud Heights (feet)	Forecast Value (100s of feet)	Forecast Value Range Increments (feet)
≤1,000	000, 001, 002...010 BLO BKN010	Values - BLO BKN010 (OVC010) or 100 foot Increment; Ranges - 200 - 400 foot increments
>1,000 - ≤3,000	011, 012, 013...029, 030	100 foot increments; Ranges 500 - 1000 (bases or tops)
>3,000 - ≤5,000	035, 040, 045, 050	500 foot increments; Ranges 500 - 1000 (bases or tops)
>5,000 - ≤15,000	060, 070...140, 150	1,000 foot increments; Ranges 1,000 - 2,000 (bases or tops)
>15,000	200, 250, 300	5,000 (bases)

Cloud bases should be forecast at all heights, using forecaster judgement and keeping terrain in mind. For example, high-based thunderstorms may be significant to a pilot in the west but may not be significant to a pilot in other parts of the country. Cumulonimbus (CB) clouds will be specifically mentioned when thunderstorm activity is expected.

Cloud cover along a route or over a local area will be described using the standard observation contractions and definitions found in FMH No. 1; i.e., CLEAR (SKC), FEW (FEW), SCATTERED (SCT), BROKEN (BKN), OVERCAST (OVC), or Vertical Visibility (VV) into a total surface obscuration. These terms may be used singly or in appropriate combinations (e.g., SKC, SCT-BKN040 or BKN-OVC030). However, forecasters should be aware that such combinations may reduce the usefulness of their products. For example, generic use of

variability, such as SCT-BKN010 means cloud cover is forecasted to vary from 3/8 to 7/8. Such a forecast, if not accompanied by spatial or temporal trend information makes pre-flight decisions very difficult. SCT010 XCPT BKN010 ALONG ERN SLOPES OF MTNS is a much more useful forecast and is strongly encouraged. The contraction CLR BLO 120 may be used from automated stations if the forecaster is reasonably sure that the observations are representative of the route or route segment. Other examples of ceiling descriptors can include: CIG BLO BKN010 and AOA BKN120.

When appropriate, include statements such as MTNS OBSCD ABV 070, MTN RDGS OBSCD, or ALL PASSES OBSCD. Geographic features may be specified (e.g., CASCDS or MTNS).

2.1.5 Cloud Tops. Forecasters are strongly encouraged to include cloud tops when they are forecasted below 15,000 feet MSL. In addition to PIREPS, satellite and WSR-88D data are good sources for cloud top information. Cloud top heights (always MSL) can be stated as a single value or in ranges (see table in previous section). When the vertical clearance between layers is <1,500 feet, only the top of the highest layer should be included with a statement such as MEGG LYRS BLO BKN150. Tops of well defined obscurations aloft or obstructions to vision (smoke, haze, etc.) may also be included in forecasts.

2.1.6 LLWS. When the TAF for a TWEB route anchor-point or local vicinity TWEB center-point includes a forecast of non-convective LLWS conditions, those conditions will be included in the TWEB text with appropriate coverage information if available. If conditions are expected to be isolated or confined to the vicinity of the anchor-point airport, NR (NEAR) and the TAF location identifier will be entered. If the conditions are expected to be more widespread, or in a well-defined area not near a TAF location, the expected extent of the coverage should be defined in the TWEB text.

2.1.7 Information Not Contained in TWEBs. Icing and turbulence information will not be included in TWEBs. This information is gathered by AFSS personnel from Area Forecasts (FA), AIRMETs, SIGMETs, and/or Center Weather Advisories (CWA) for insertion in the broadcast.

2.2 Synopsis. The TWEB synopsis is a brief description of the location, character, and movement of fronts, pressure systems, and air flow which will affect TWEB routes and any area assigned to the issuing NWS office during the valid period of the TWEB. It should be based on the FAs, NCEP model output, and any other data judged appropriate by the forecaster. An outlook period may be included in the synopsis if there is a request for additional information in the synopsis. Since TWEBs are issued two hours after TAFs, the outlook period, if used, should be for ten (10) hours in order to coincide with the end of the TAF valid time.

Examples:

**SEA SYNS 120820 STNRY UPR LVL TROF JUST OFSHR PAC NW CST WL
 MAINTAIN MOIST SW FLOW ALF BYD 20Z. WK CDFNT 50W OF WA
 CST AT 08Z WL RCH CASCDS 12Z THEN DSIPT 14Z-18Z. MOIST/UNSTBL
 AMS WL CONT WRN WA IN LOW LVL ONSHR FLOW BHD CDFNT. PGTSND
 CONVERGENCE ZONE FRMG NR KPAE AFT 12Z. OTLK VALID 122000Z TIL**

130600Z (text)...

OMA SYNS 111402 STG UPR LVL LOW OVR NWRN NE WL MOV SLOLY NEWD THRU 02Z. WDSPRD SEV TS AT 14Z THRU CNTRL NE INTO NWRN KS WL MOV RPDLY EWD TO ERN NE/ERN KS BY OOZ. AMS VRY UNSTBL. CDFNT FM UPR LVL LOW KVTN-KGLD-KAMA WL MOV TO NR KPIR-KTOP-KDFW BY 00Z.

2.2.1 Synopsis Issuance. TWEB synopses are prepared where required. Where the synopsis is not listed, there is no requirement. The requirement for issuing synopses may be reviewed periodically by W/OS23, NWSH after discussion with each RH. If, after coordination with the customers and the FAA, it is determined that a synopsis is no longer needed, W/OS23 may choose to discontinue it. If an NWS office transfers or eliminates its TWEB route responsibility, and that office issued a synopsis, then the synopsis will also be transferred or eliminated.

3. Route Forecast Abbreviation or Suspension. Minimum requirements for route forecasts, as discussed in Section 5 above, are less defined than those for TAFs, even though most route forecasts are anchored at observational sites for which TAFs are prepared. Therefore, when observation elements and/or entire observations are not available, the decision to issue, abbreviate, or suspend the affected route forecast will be made by the duty forecaster using the total observation concept (see NWSI 10-813, Section 5.2) and employing their best judgement.

3.1 Procedures. If a forecaster determines a TWEB forecast should be suspended due to missing observations, then a NIL TWEB will be issued (see examples below).

Example:

255 TWEB AMD 012308 2245Z KFSD-KPIR-KRAP. NIL TWEB.

When a TWEB route is abbreviated because of missing observation data or suspension of a TAF, an amendment will be issued with the statement "Kxxx-Kxxx NOT AVBL" appended to the end of the text (see examples below). Forecasters can maintain a TWEB if observational data ceases at a site until the forecaster determines that TWEB is no longer representative.

Examples:

383 TWEB AMD 172108 2110Z KSLC-KENV-KEKO. ALL HGTS MSL XCP CIGS. KSLC-KENV P6SM BKN100 1 1/2SM -SHSN WITH MTNS LCLLY OBSCD. KENV-KEKO NOT AVBL. (KEKO TAF not available)

261 TWEB AMD 172108 2115Z KOMA-KGRI-KLBF. ALL HGTS MSL XCP CIGS. 50W KOMA-KGRI-KLBF 1-1 1/2SM -FZDZ CIGS OVC020-030. KOMA-50W KOMA NOT AVBL.

NOTE: For part time stations, a statement such as NIL AMD AFT (HH)Z may be appended to the end of the TWEB (see example below).

Example:

**041 TWEB 122008 KILM-KEWN-KORF. ALL HGTS MSL XCP CIGS. P6SN BKN080
SCT 3-4SM -TSRA...00Z P6SM OVC020-025. NIL AMD AFT 02Z.**

If additional information makes a TWEB for the complete route possible prior to the next scheduled issuance, the product should be issued as an amendment to the previous scheduled issuance.

When a TWEB cannot be issued, use NIL TWEB. When the information becomes available, issue an amendment.

4. Issuance Times and Valid Periods.

4.1 Scheduled Text Products. Scheduled TWEBs covering the CONUS will be prepared four times a day. Issuance time, valid period, and transmission period are listed in UTC as follows:

Issuance Time (UCT)	Valid Period (UTC)	Transmission Period (UTC)
0200	0200 - 1400	0120 - 0140
0800	0800 - 2000	0720 - 0740
1400	1400 - 0200	1320 - 1340
2000	2000 - 0800	1920 - 1940

4.2 Unscheduled Text Products. Unscheduled TWEBs are issued when needed as an amended (AMD), corrected (COR), or corrected amended (COR AMD) TWEB. NOTE: the Advanced Weather Interactive Processing System (AWIPS) header follows standard NWS procedures. Unscheduled TWEBs will contain all the elements of a regularly scheduled TWEB issuance. Valid periods begin the hour of issuance if the time is earlier than H+30, or the hour after issuance if the time is H+30 or later. Valid periods will always end at the same time as the end of the current scheduled valid period. Additionally, the UTC of issuance will follow the revised valid period. When issued, forgo expired portions or references to weather occurring before issuance time. Only the current or expected conditions will be detailed.

Example:

164 TWEB COR 010214 0205Z KICT-KAMA. text...
346 TWEB AMD 011702 1635Z KBOI-KEKO. text...
431 TWEB COR AMD 120108 0045Z LAX BASIN. text...

5. Amendments. TWEBs should be amended when observed conditions meet minimum amendment criteria and when trends towards conditions make a TWEB forecast erroneous or unrepresentative. For example, if the forecast is for clear skies with valley fog developing after

10Z and a middle cloud deck moves in which will prevent cooling and fog formation, the forecast should be amended as soon as possible. Specific minimum amendment criteria follows:

TWEB Amendment Criteria*

If the forecast is:	Amend if:
No Ceiling or Ceiling >3,000 feet AGL	In the forecaster's judgement, the ceiling is unrepresentative or decreases to $\leq 3,000$ feet
Ceiling $\geq 2,000$ - $\leq 3,000$ feet AGL	Ceiling increases to >3,000 feet AGL or decreases to <2,000 feet AGL
Ceiling $\geq 1,000$ feet to <2,000 feet AGL	Ceiling increases to $\geq 2,000$ feet AGL or decreases to <1,000 feet AGL
Ceiling <1,000 feet AGL	Ceiling increases to $\geq 1,000$ feet AGL
Visibility >5 SM	In the forecaster's judgment, visibility is unrepresentative or decreases to <5 SM
Visibility ≥ 3 to <5 SM	Visibility increases to ≥ 7 or decreases to <3 SM
Visibility <3 SM	Visibility increase to ≥ 3 SM
No Thunderstorms	Thunderstorms are expected to occur
Thunderstorms	No Thunderstorms are expected to occur
Non-convective Low Level Wind Shear (LLWS) is not forecast	Non-convective LLWS is expected to occur
Non-convective LLWS	Non-convective LLWS is no longer expected to occur

* Note: Although there are no amendment criteria below 1000 feet and 3 SM, forecasters are encouraged to forecast lower conditions as specifically as possible.